

By moving S. 1637 through the Senate, Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS have already demonstrated that they can make that process work. If the process should break down due to disagreements over either corporate tax policy or extraneous provisions, then we understand that such a conference report will not be brought to the floor.

Mr. FRIST. That is correct, so long as the Democratic conferees are acting in good faith. And I have every expectation they will. I agree that it is our mutual goal to reach a conference agreement that reflects the balance and broad bipartisan consensus S. 1637 achieved. That will be the test of good faith for both sides. I think we can do that, and we will not bring a bill to the Senate floor if it does not reflect that commitment. I want to thank the Democratic Leader for his leadership and willingness to address this process.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate the majority leader's work in reaching the agreement and the good faith that I believe we need to demonstrate on a bipartisan basis to move forward. This accommodates the concerns on both sides. We have made some real progress. We have a lot of work to do. There are a lot of differences with the House. But I am confident that Democrats and Republicans are now in a position to work very closely together to come up with the best result.

There are no predetermined conclusions as to what the result may be, but we do this with a full appreciation of the need to work together to accomplish what is clearly a real opportunity to move forward on a jobs bill, on legislation that I believe is a must-pass piece of legislation prior to the time we adjourn for the year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I congratulate the majority leader and the Democratic leader for what I think is an excellent agreement made in good faith. It gives us a chance to pass one of the most important pieces of legislation that Congress will consider in the second session of the 108th Congress.

It has not been easy getting to this point. I wanted to say, particularly on behalf of those of us who represent States in which tobacco farmers are slowly having their assets stripped from them, that this agreement gives the buyout a chance. It doesn't guarantee an outcome, but it certainly gives the buyout a chance to be considered in conference. Getting to conference on this bill is a significant move in the right direction from the point of view of those of us who represent tobacco growers.

I thank the leaders for what I think is an excellent agreement to move this

into conference and have a chance to pass a very important bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: DR. FRED CHOLICK

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, more than 7,000 students and thousands of South Dakota farm and ranch families have been impacted through the leadership of one man: Dr. Fred Cholick.

Dr. Cholick has served South Dakota's No. 1 industry of agriculture for nearly a quarter of a century. He has been a teacher, a mentor and an advocate for expanded research. For the past 6 years, he has served as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at South Dakota State University, a land grant university and South Dakota's largest educational institution.

He has earned a strong reputation nationally. Through his work, he caught the attention of Kansas State University, where he will become Dean of the College of Agriculture in Manhattan. It is a loss for my home state of South Dakota, but an incredible professional opportunity for Dr. Cholick.

When Dr. Cholick became Dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences in 1998, he instilled a motto for the college: "Making a Difference." It was a bold statement that faculty embraced and, to those students who arrived on campus, it signaled the high expectations of the University and Dr. Cholick.

Dr. Cholick is an academic, but he has never been confined to a classroom or laboratory. He has traveled extensively throughout our expansive state, engaging in a constructive dialogue with farmers, ranchers and agribusiness men and women. He understands that adapting to the changes in agriculture—brought about by a global economy, breakthroughs in technology and other factors—should be a collaborative effort.

While Dr. Cholick is a forceful spokesperson for agriculture, he is an equally good listener, taking in people's ideas and insights in a patient, thoughtful manner.

As a young professor and researcher from Oregon State University and Colorado State University, Dr. Cholick made a difference for South Dakota's

farmers with his work on spring wheat varieties that can withstand the harsh weather of the Great Plains. He continued that commitment when he headed up the Plant Science Department, continually working to improve seed genetics to create more efficient and effective corn and soybean varieties.

South Dakota State University has been enriched by Dr. Cholick's service for 23 years. Beginning next month, he will continue his good work at Kansas State University.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. Cholick for his distinguished career and commitment to our Nation's land grant institutions.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On September 30, 2003, in San Pablo, CA, Police Officers found a transgender hair stylist named Sindy Cuarda wearing a blouse and pants, bleeding heavily from several gunshot wounds in the driveway of a business in San Pablo. She was shot in the chest and genitals. Though police have not commented on the case, witnesses have said that it was motivated out of hate.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ENSURING AMERICA'S COMPETITIVENESS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I have come to this floor several times in the last few months to discuss our country's future competitiveness in the global marketplace, which I consider to be a very serious subject. As a first step in tackling the challenges we are now facing, yesterday I introduced three bills that I feel will move us in the right direction. They will ensure a strong workforce that can handle the ever-changing world around it, and create more high tech job opportunities for this workforce by encouraging the development of science parks.

We have, as a nation, a significant negative trend to reverse. The United

States currently ranks fifteenth in the percentage of 18-to-24-year-olds who earn science and engineering degrees in their respective countries. This places us behind Taiwan and South Korea, Ireland and Italy among others. Less than thirty years ago, in 1975, the United States ranked third in the world in this respect. According to a new National Science Foundation report entitled "An Emerging and Critical Problem of the Science and Engineering Labor Force", the average age of the science and engineering workforce is rising, and the children of the baby boom generation are not choosing these careers in the same numbers as their parents. The number of science and engineering doctoral degrees awarded to U.S. citizens dropped by 7 percent from 1998 to 2001, while the number of jobs requiring science and engineering skills in the U.S. labor force is growing almost 5 percent per year. In a recent survey, the National Association of Manufacturers found that more than 80 percent of manufacturers report a shortage of qualified job candidates. Equally troubling, it is estimated that as many as 3.3 million jobs may be sent overseas in the next 15 years, causing American workers to lose \$136 billion in wages.

A recent trip to Taiwan brought to my attention some of these emerging opportunities in other countries, and specifically the major benefits of a science park. Initially developed by the Taiwanese government in the early 1980s, the Hsinchu Science Park meets many of the needs of growing high tech companies, which include access to a trained work force, financing, secondary supply chain companies, and quality of life services such as schools, roads and parks. Two companies spun out from this park now control 40 percent of the world's market for chip fabrication. And China is now adopting a similar model.

What we need to take from countries like Taiwan is the role the government has to foster continued growth in key industries by supporting the necessary infrastructure, such as the science parks. It should also be pointed out that that support is not forever. While Taiwan had a very active role in chip R&D in the 70's and 80's, that is not true today. Industry, not the government, funds over 94 percent of chip R&D.

In my own State of New Mexico, the 6-year-old Sandia Science and Technology Park has already demonstrated some of the benefits of this unique model. The Sandia park now has 19 entities employing almost 1,000 people. The average annual salary is \$55,000—well above the Albuquerque average. Since the Park's inception, more than \$17 million in cooperative research and development agreements and licensing agreements have been made between Sandia National Laboratory and park tenants. In addition, Sandia has awarded more than \$50 million in procurement contracts to park tenants. Both

Sandia National Laboratory and the companies in the park have benefited immensely from the advantages of this business environment.

With the new challenges we are facing as a competitor in the international marketplace, here are four things we can do to improve our Nation's position.

First, we have to improve our high tech workforce. We need to increase the numbers of workers educated for employment in high technology industries, align the technical and vocational programs of educational institutions with the workforce needs of high growth industries, offer individuals expanded opportunities for rapid training and re-training needed to keep and change jobs in a volatile economy, and provide U.S. companies with adequate numbers of skilled technical workers. This is why I am introducing the Workforce Investment in Next Generation Technologies—WING—Act today.

Drawing from the already very successful Advanced Technology Education Program at the National Science Foundation, the legislation will establish a consultation partnership between the National Science Foundation, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Education that creates flexible high-tech, high-wage career ladders. It would do this by funding cooperative partnerships between one-stop centers, business, community colleges, universities, and vocational programs at the local and regional level. These would be directed toward creating technology-based certification programs that would solidify common skill standards for industry. Schools would create a curriculum based on current industry needs, and individuals who leave the program would have a skill-set recognized by industry. Significantly, they could be used anywhere across the country.

Over time, because individuals would be able to incrementally increase their skill set through additional training, they would be able to pursue higher level degrees in science and technology and obtain progressively higher-wage employment. Furthermore, by linking the public and private sector in a collaborative effort for high-technology workforce training, it will encourage the sharing of information and ideas, increase cooperation between entities frequently having a reputation for not working together, and enhance cluster-driven economic growth across the country. In my state of New Mexico, for example, you could easily envision a cluster being developed around key critical technologies for the future such as high temperature superconductors or next-generation lighting.

Second, we need to ensure that individuals typically trapped in low-wage jobs have a tangible chance to step onto career ladders to something better. To this end I previously introduced the Limited English Proficiency and Integrated Workforce Training Act, S. 1690. This legislation establishes a pro-

gram under the Workforce Investment Act administered jointly by Departments of Labor and Education focused on preparing and placing individuals with limited English proficiency in growing industries with tangible high wage career paths. It is also designed to bypass lengthy prerequisites to entry into the workforce and allow individuals with limited proficiency to integrate occupational and English language training. Significantly, it recognizes that immigrants constitute close to 50 percent of the growth in the civilian workforce in the last decade and that these individuals can make a significant contribution to U.S. economic competitiveness.

In combination, these bills will bring together workforce training and economic development to enhance opportunities for growth in communities around the country. Similar language was already accepted in the Workforce Investment Act legislation that passed the Senate.

Focusing on high-school to postsecondary education, an important third component to meeting the demands of a competitive, 21st century workforce is the bill I am introducing today, the Preparing Students for a High-Tech World Act.

Strong career and technical education programs are vital to addressing our shortage of highly-skilled workers and to preserving these jobs for Americans. These programs offer effective and proven links to positive educational and employment outcomes for students, including increased school attendance, reduced high school dropout rates, higher grades, increased entry into postsecondary education, and greater access to high-tech careers.

In my home State of New Mexico, we have benefited greatly from federal support for career and technical education programs, which involve over 3,000 secondary and postsecondary teachers. These programs have a distinguished record of preparing young people and adults for further education and careers. For instance, in Gadsden, we have an innovative program in a rural border area that has been struggling to keep its jobs and its industry alive. The Gadsden program has directly linked the needs of area employers to the high school and postsecondary curriculum. The employers get a customized workforce, and have more incentive to stay and grow their business in the region. The students get preferred hiring status, as well as opportunities to enhance their skills and obtain certificates as they work.

We also have an outstanding career and technical education program in Rio Rancho that was established through a unique community-business partnership with Intel Corporation. Rio Rancho High School offers a rigorous, integrated career and technical education program that was featured in *Time* magazine as one of the 10 most innovative career and technical schools in the nation.

The Preparing Students for a High-Tech World Act will extend the opportunity to benefit from exemplary programs like Rio Rancho to our nation's students by increasing the academic rigor and integration of career and technical education programs; developing pathways to postsecondary education and high-skill, high-wage careers; forging alliances among secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, and business and industry designed to address local and regional workforce needs; ensuring that teachers have the knowledge and skills to teach effectively in career and technical education programs; and encouraging the establishment of small, personalized, career-themed learning communities.

These three bills will ensure that we develop the skilled workforce that is essential to building a strong and dynamic economy and to maintaining our country's ability to compete in a global marketplace. This legislation would have substantial spill-over benefits for the communities that adopted these strategies. It would improve science and technology education at the schools in the area. It would increase the employment opportunities for the students that participated in these programs. It would establish more cooperative linkages between the business, schools, and the one-stop shops, and it would enhance economic development in the region.

Along with developing a better trained workforce, we must also create the jobs for them to fill. As I mentioned earlier, Taiwan and Sandia have done an excellent job in demonstrating the competitive advantages of a science park. Given that they act as a critical element in diffusing technology into our national industries, I think that a fourth element of our response to new S&T challenges would be for the Federal government to take a stronger and more coherent role in supporting such parks. Some science parks are locally supported by their states, while others may apply for grants from the Economic Development Administration within the Department of Commerce. These existing sources of support are helpful but it appears to me that it would make good sense to develop a more focused grant program to help jump-start the development of science parks, which is why I have introduced the Science Park Administration Act of 2004. If passed, the federal funds in this bill would be cost matched by States. A loan program to assist in land acquisition and infrastructure development for these parks would be established. And various tax incentives would be provided, including credits for employees trained locally, and adjustment of depreciation schedules for high-end equipment to reflect actual product life-cycles.

I hope that I have provided some positive steps we can take to face the increasingly competitive world we live in. Congress and the administration

need to find the will and the resolve to meet these challenges head-on. I look forward to working with my colleagues in doing so, and in helping to ensure the competitive strength of our Nation.

ESTIMATE FOR S. 894

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate for S. 894, the Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 22, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD C. SHELBY,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 894, the Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford. Sincerely,

ELIZABETH ROBINSON
(For Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director).
Enclosure.

S. 894—Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act

S. 894 would authorize the U.S. Mint to produce a \$1 silver coin in calendar year 2005 to commemorate the 230th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. The legislation would specify a surcharge of \$10 on the sale of each coin and would designate the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit entity, as the recipient of the income from the surcharge. CBO estimates that enacting S. 894 would have no significant net impact on direct spending over the 2004–2009 period.

Sales from the coins that would be authorized by S. 894 could raise as much as \$5 million in surcharges if the Mint sells the maximum number of authorized coins. However, the experience of recent commemorative coin sales suggests that receipts would be about \$3 million. Under current law, the Mint must ensure that it does not lose money producing commemorative coins before transferring any surcharges to a recipient organization. CBO expects that those receipts from such surcharges would be transferred to the heritage foundation in fiscal year 2006.

S. 894 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On March 22, 2004, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3277, the Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Financial Services on March 17, 2004. The two pieces of legislation are similar and our estimates of implementing each bill are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COST ESTIMATE FOR S. 976

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Congress-

sional Budget Office cost estimate for S. 976, the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD C. SHELBY,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 976, the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act of 2003.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford. Sincerely,

ELIZABETH ROBINSON,
(For Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director).
Enclosure.

S. 976—Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act of 2003

Summary: S. 976 would direct the U.S. Mint to produce a \$5 gold coin and a \$1 silver coin in calendar year 2007 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia. The bill would specify a surcharge on the sales price of \$35 for the gold coin and \$10 for the silver coin and would designate the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation (an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia), the National Park Service, and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (a private nonprofit association), as recipients of the income from those surcharges.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 976 would have no significant net impact on direct spending over the 2004–2009 period. S. 976 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), and would benefit the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: S. 976 could raise as much as \$8.5 million in surcharges if the Mint sells the maximum number of authorized coins. Recent commemorative coin sales by the Mint suggest, however, that receipts would be about \$3 million. The legislation would require the Mint to produce the \$1 silver coin from silver available in the National Defense Stockpile. Based on information provided by the Defense Logistics Agency and the Mint, no silver is available in the stockpile. Hence, CBO estimates that receipts from only the \$5 gold coin would be about \$1.25 million.

Under current law, only two commemorative coins may be minted and issued in any calendar year and the Mint must ensure that it will not lose money on a commemorative coin program before transferring any surcharges to a designated recipient organization. CBO expects that the Mint would collect most of those surcharges in fiscal year 2007 and would transfer collections to the designated recipients in fiscal year 2008.

In addition, CBO expects that the Mint would use gold obtained from the reserves held at the Treasury to produce the gold coin. Because the budget treats the sale of gold as a means of financing governmental operations—that is, the Treasury's receipts from such sales do not affect the size of the deficit—CBO has not included such receipts in this estimate. CBO estimates that S. 976 would provide the federal government with about \$3.5 million in additional cash (in exchange for gold) for financing the federal deficit in fiscal year 2007.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: S. 976 contains no intergovernmental